

**FILED**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO

AO 91 (Rev. 11/11) Criminal Complaint

FEB 14 2025

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
District of New MexicoMITCHELL R. ELFERS  
CLERK OF COURTUnited States of America  
v.  
JOHN DOE, a.k.a. "Walter Lee Coffman"

Case No.

25-216 MJ

Defendant(s)

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of September 4, 2019 in the county of Otero in the  
District of New Mexico, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

Offense Description

18 USC 1544

Passport Fraud: Misuse of a Passport

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.

Complainant's signature

SA Lacey Chessner, Federal Bureau of Investigation


Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence. NAPHINE

Date:

2/14/25

City and state:

Las Cruces, NM

Judge's signature

Gregory J. Fouratt, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, Lacey Chesser, being duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

I am a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent currently assigned to the FBI Albuquerque Division, Las Cruces Resident Agency. I have been an FBI Special Agent since October 2023. Prior to becoming a Special Agent, I was a Police Officer in Charleston, South Carolina for five years. During my time as a Police Officer, I worked in investigations for three years, which included the Special Victims unit and the Homicide Unit. I am classified, trained, and employed as a federal law enforcement officer with statutory arrest authority charged with conducting criminal investigations of alleged violations of federal criminal statutes, including violations of Title 18 of the United States Code. My experience as a Special Agent includes but is not limited to: conducting physical surveillance; interviewing witnesses; writing affidavits for and executing search warrants; working with undercover agents and informants; issuing administrative and federal grand jury subpoenas; and analyzing financial records, telephone records, and data derived from the use of pen registers and trap and traces; and assisting in wiretap investigations.

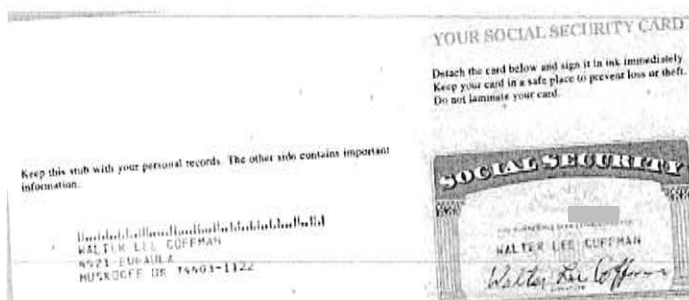
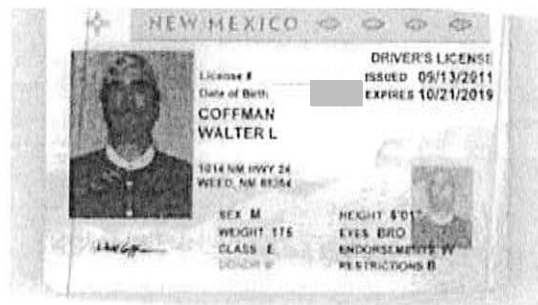
This affidavit is submitted in support of an application for criminal complaint charging John Doe a.k.a. Walter Lee Coffman, with Passport Fraud by Misusing a Passport in violation of 18 U.S.C. 1544.

The facts in this affidavit are based on my own knowledge; knowledge obtained from other individuals during my participation in this investigation, including other FBI SAs, law enforcement officers, and witnesses; communications with others who have knowledge of the events and circumstances described herein; and information gained through my training and experience.

Since this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause to secure a criminal complaint, I have not included each fact known to me concerning this investigation. I have set forth only those facts that I believe are necessary to establish the requisite probable cause.

### PROBABLE CAUSE

On or about September 4, 2019, an individual identified as John Doe visited the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, located in Otero County. During this visit, John Doe fraudulently represented himself to be, Walter Lee Coffman, by presenting a series of fraudulent documents. Specially, John Doe submitted a previously issued New Mexico driver's license that featured his photograph but listed the name, "Walter L Coffman." The license displayed a birth date from [REDACTED], and an address of 1014 NM HWY 24, Weed, New Mexico. The driver's license indicated an issuance date of



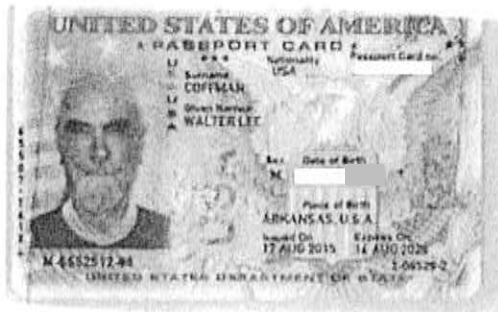
September 13, 2011, and an expiration date of October 21, 2019. In addition, John Doe provided a Social Security card bearing the number of xxx-xxx-

[REDACTED] The card listed the name

"Walter Lee Coffman," a signature and an address of 4521 Eufaula Ave Muskogee, Oklahoma.



John Doe further submitted a current passport that included his photograph but identified him as "Walter Lee Coffman," and indicated a specific date of birth in [REDACTED]. The passport showed an



issuance date of August 17, 2015. Finally, John Doe presented an insurance letter with the name Walter L. Coffman and an address of 1014 NM Highway 24 in Weed, New Mexico, matching the address on the

driver's license. These documents were scanned into the MVD records system on September 4, 2019.<sup>1</sup> A renewed New Mexico license was subsequently issued to John Doe as a result of this application.

In 2024, federal agents initiated an investigation into John Doe after discovering that Walter Lee Coffman, born in [REDACTED] on the same day and month as stated by John Doe, and assigned



social security number xxx-xxx-[REDACTED] had been deceased since 1975. Arkansas Bureau of Vital Records verified that Coffman was born in [REDACTED] and died on July 27, 1975, at the age of 22. The investigation further established that Walter Lee Coffman is buried in Hot Springs, Arkansas, as agents were able to obtain a photograph of his gravestone. An obituary published in *The Sentinel-Record* on July 29, 1975, detailed Walter Lee Coffman's death, provided information about his parents, and included a photograph of Coffman.

<sup>1</sup> Agents only recently received certified copies of these documents through a subpoena return from the MVD in January of 2025.

application process, John Doe provided an address in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Accurant reports, indicate that John Doe lived in Muskogee, Oklahoma, using Coffman's identity, until approximately 2003. At that time, John Doe relocated to Weed, New Mexico. Agents believe that John Doe fraudulently used this replacement Social Security card when renewing his driver's license in New Mexico in 2019.

The investigation revealed that John Doe applied for a passport under the name of Walter Lee Coffman at the New Orleans Passport Agency in October of 1984. The Passport was subsequently issued to John Doe on November 6, 1984. As part of the application process, John Doe submitted a photograph of himself and listed his Muskogee, Oklahoma address.

Ten years later, in 1994, John Doe renewed the Passport under Coffman's name once again providing a photograph of himself.

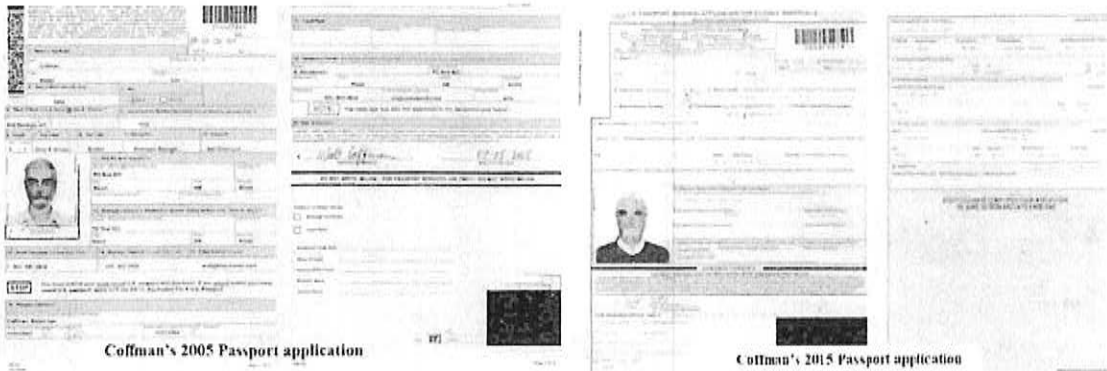


**Coffman's 1994  
Passport Photo**

**Coffman's 1984 Passport Application**

John Doe continued to renew the fraudulent passport under Walter Lee Coffman's name on two additional occasions: in 2005 and most recently by mail in 2015. For each renewal, John Doe submitted an updated photograph of himself and used his current address in Weed, New Mexico.





Agents assert that John Doe used the fraudulent 2015 Passport card when renewing his driver's license in New Mexico in 2019.

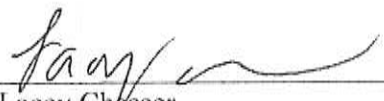
### **REQUEST FOR SEALING**

I also respectfully request that this Affidavit be sealed until further order of the Court, as it contains the victim's personal identifying information.

### **PROBABLE CAUSE**

Based on the above reference information, your affiant respectfully submits that there is probable cause to believe that John Doe knowingly and willfully misused a passport in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1544.

Dated: 2/14/2025

  
Lacey Chesser  
FBI Special Agent

Signed and sworn this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.

  
GREGORY J. FOURATT  
United States Magistrate Judge